

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FLASH
INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: Erskine Vegetation Fire, Lake Isabella, Kern County (This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 06/24/16 at 2200 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 06/23/16 at 1557 hours

LOCATION: Erskine Creek Rd & Apollo Way, Lake Isabella

IMPACT OF EVENT: Moderate

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Per ICS-209 and Inciweb:

Acres Burned to Date: 30,000 acres

Contained: 5%

Start Date and Time: 06/23/16 1557 PDT

Fire Cause: Unknown

Structures Threatened: 1,500

Total Structures Destroyed: 150

Single Residences: 150

Non-residential: 0

Other minor structures: 0

Structures Damaged: 75

Estimated Contained (date): 06/30/16

Fuel Types: Brush, small and large trees

Event Summary- The Erskine Fire is burning in the Lake Isabella area of Kern County. Life, property, local communities, residences, and infrastructure are all threatened at this time. As of 1500 hours, there are 800 fire fighters on scene, with several hundred more in route to the fire. Heat, steep and rugged terrain, wind and a fast moving fire are all challenges facing firefighters. The fire started on Bureau Land Management (BLM) managed public lands at the junction of Erskine Creek Rd and Apollo. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Fire Information

The incident Command Post has been established at the Park & Ride at Highway 178 and Highway 155. As of 1530 hours on 06/24/16:

- 2 confirmed fatalities
- Several missing
- 35 OES Engines
- 80 Local Government Engines

Activations

- Cal OES State Emergency Operations Center has activated to Level 2 with the Blue IST at 1300 through 2000 hours. Will resume operations 6/25/16 from 0700 to 1900 hours
- Kern County EOC will be operational until 2000 hours and will resume operations 6/25/16 from 0700 to 1900 hours
- A JIC has been established
- Cal OES Law Emergency Operations Center (LEOC) has been activated as of 06/24/16 at 1057 hours.
- Cal OES Fire and Rescue Emergency Operations Center (Fire EOC) will be activated 0600-1800 hours until further notice.

Proclamations

- Kern County proclaimed a local emergency on 6/23/16
- A State of Emergency was proclaimed on 6/24/16

State Assistance Requests

- None at this time.

Deployments

- 5 ESCs have been deployed to Kern County
- Fire Branch AC
- 2 Law Branch AC
- 2Cal OES PIO

Critical Concerns

Access and Functional Needs (AFN)

- One Functional Assessment Support Team (FAST) member deployed to Kern County on 6/24/16; ETA 1730 hours
- Kern Regional Transit is at the shelters to transport AFN community members
- Red Cross provided one AFN trailer and an AFN specialist to the shelter

Critical Infrastructure (including Hospital and Medical Facilities)

- As of 1611 hours, Kern Valley Hospital announced they will be evacuating the hospital.

Emergency Management

Evacuations (2,700 homes affected)

- Kern Valley Hospital evacuating 81 patients as of 1611 hours. No requests or unmet needs at this time.

A recommended evacuation is in effect for the areas of:

- Lake Isabella
- Yankee Canyon
- Lakeland Tract
- Squirrel Mt Valley
- Weldon through Onyx
- Mt Mesa
- South Lake
- Bella Vista
- Valley Estates
- Kelso Valley to Piute

Road Closures

- Highway 178 at Auxiliary Dam
- Highway 178 at Sierra Hwy
- Highway 178 at Entrada
- Hwy 178 at Kelso Creek
- Hwy 178 at Kelso Valley
- Hwy 178 at Mobile.
- Hwy 178 Lake Isabella /Mount Mesa/Squirrel Valley Area: Lake Isabella Blvd to Sierra Way
- All County roads in the evacuation areas are closed to non-residents.

Health and Medical

- As of 1600 hours, Kern Valley Hospital is under evacuation. Patient count: 81
- A boil water notice was issued
- Smoke in the Lake Isabella and Erskine Creek area is impacting communities in the Kern River Valley.
- The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District is recommending that children, older individuals, and those with pre-existing heart and lung problems should avoid outdoor activity if smoke is in the immediate area.

Schools

- All are closed for summer. No summer school at this time.

Shelters

Primary: Kernville Elementary School

13359 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA

Capacity: 150 (At capacity as of 1030 hours 6/24/16)

Overnight populations: 129 adults and 18 children (under age of 15)

Secondary: St. Jude Catholic Church

86 Nellie Dent Drive, Wofford Heights, CA

Capacity: 150

[Shelter has not opened due to delay in receiving supplies.](#)

Staff Shelter: Kern River Valley Senior Center

6404b Lake Isabella Boulevard

Lake Isabella, CA

- CERT and American Red Cross are running the shelters.
- Kernville Elementary will now be the primary shelter location; Senior Center will be used as staff shelter.
- In case sheltering operations continue to expand, Kern County Health and Human Services has been requested to transport shelter equipment trailer currently staged in Taft to KCFD HQ in Bakersfield for potential deployment.
- Kern County is providing transportation to the shelters through Kern Regional Transit, and has AFN transportation capabilities. The number to the general public is 1-800-277-7866.
- American Red Cross has 7 shelter trailers in the area and can bring more.
- Mental Health Services are being dispatched to the shelters

Animal Shelters

Kern County Animal Services is assisting with animal sheltering operations. Domestic animals are being housed next to the shelter at Kernville Elementary.

OA Mission Support Requests

- [FAST coordinator –Cal OES Mission Tasking #2016-IREOC-24579](#)
- [Fixed wing C-12 air transport for personnel to fire location.](#)

Utilities

- Power lines are reported down across Highway 178, just east of Mountain Mesa. CUEA is reporting that approximately 3,000 people are without power. [Cell services restored \(Verizon and AT&T\) for firefighting activities.](#)
- [Per AT&T, a Cell on Wheels \(COW\) is being deployed and should be in full service by 1000 hours on 6/25/16 at the incident command post.](#)

Initial Damage Estimates and Preliminary Damage Information

- [Pending: Will be conducting windshield surveys.](#)

This report will be updated as information becomes available.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center
916-845-8911

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